

And, very importantly, it is budget neutral.

When I return to my constituents in California, I'll be proud to tell them that with this bill: Employer-based health coverage will improve for 461,000 men, women and children who live in my District; 84,000 households in my District will receive affordability credits to help them pay for coverage they otherwise couldn't afford; 9,500 of the seniors in my District will no longer fall victim to the prescription drug "donut-hole"; 17,100 small businesses in my District will be able to obtain affordable healthcare coverage; and that 15,400 small businesses will qualify for tax credits that will help reduce their health insurance costs.

I'm also proud that I joined with Senator Kennedy to author H.R. 3962, to create an FDA pathway for the approval of biosimilar drugs.

Biotechnology is a complex and emerging field that can harness the power to cure cancer, AIDS, and diabetes, and prevent the onset of deadly and debilitating diseases such as Alzheimer's, heart disease, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis and arthritis.

My amendment will save the government \$6 billion over the next ten years while continuing to foster innovation and new advancements.

After President Obama signs this bill, millions of Americans who today have no health insurance will have it. Patients who are now denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition will no longer be shut out of the system. Millions more seniors will be able to afford their medications, and the average American family will pay less for their health coverage.

Most importantly, we will be keeping our promise to the American people that they will have affordable health insurance which they cannot lose or have taken away from them if they become ill.

I look forward to passing this landmark piece of legislation and seeing it signed into law by the President.

ADELE O'TOOLE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Adele O'Toole for her outstanding service to our community.

Adele O'Toole has lived in Jefferson County Colorado for 20 years, and during that time has been very active in PTA, co-founded a local book club, served as a Cub Scout den mother, Girl Scout leader, and a frequent volunteer at her children's school events. She sponsored a team for the Relay for Life event in Wheat Ridge, and frequently participates in Race for the Cure.

The dedication demonstrated by Adele O'Toole directly benefits her community. Not only does she run a multimillion dollar business, O'Toole's Garden Centers but finds time to serve her community. In her service to the area homeless Adele O'Toole frequently organized Thanksgiving and Easter Basket drives for the homeless and regularly prepares meals for families who stay at the JeffCo Action Center's shelter.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Adele O'Toole for her recognition by

the West Chamber of Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING JUNIOR LEAGUE OF FRESNO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Junior League of Fresno upon 50 years of community service to Fresno County. The Junior League of Fresno will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Saturday, October 10, 2009, in Fresno, California.

In 1948, the Service League of Fresno was established and in 1959 it was accepted into the Association of Junior Leagues International, Incorporated, and became the Junior League of Fresno. The organization was created as a way for women to promote volunteerism, develop the potential of women and to improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Each year the Junior League of Fresno with hundreds of active and sustaining members, contributes over 20,000 hours of volunteer service toward community efforts. Over the years the league has successfully met the needs of many in the community. The league members research, develop, manage and support projects with community partners in the Fresno region where current needs are unmet and existing resources are minimal. Trained volunteers are matched with specific community needs, which has led to successful partnerships with many organizations such as Break the Barriers, Children's Hospital Central California, the Discovery Center, Firefighters Creating Memories, Fresno Art Museum, Marjorie Mason Center, and the Sanctuary Youth Center.

By educating, training and creating a hands-on experience for the volunteers, the Junior League of Fresno has contributed over 1 million hours of service in the community and has raised over \$3 million for community projects for children, health care issues, social services, education, women's issues, and cultural arts.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Junior League of Fresno for 50 years of service to the Fresno community. I encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing the league many years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF GENE SKOROPOWSKI

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my esteemed colleagues from California, MIKE THOMPSON, ZOE LOFGREN, PETE STARK, MIKE HONDA, BARBARA LEE, JERRY MCNERNEY and JOHN GARAMENDI as we honor Eugene Skoropowski, who has served the public and private sector of the passenger rail business

for more than 40 years. He is retiring this week as the Managing Director of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority, CCJPA. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, we ask all of our colleagues to join us in saluting this outstanding public servant and supporter of passenger rail.

Not long after receiving his degree in architecture, from the Catholic University in Washington, DC, Gene became an active rail advocate in the late 1960s. His passion and desire to improve the passenger rail business has led him to be not only a national leader, but also a forward thinking innovator. Throughout his career he also has been an inspiration to foreign nations looking to enhance passenger rail service.

Before serving as Manager Director of the Capitol Corridor, Gene managed rail projects with Fluor Corporation for ten years in Los Angeles. During his tenure at Fluor, Gene worked closely with both the French National Railways and SYSTRA. He also served with the Philadelphia Regional Transit System and was Chief Railroad Services Officer for Boston's intercity rail system.

When Gene joined Capitol Corridor in 1999, the CCJPA serviced only eight daily trains. In less than a decade the CCJPA service grew to 32 daily trains on weekdays and 22 trains on weekends. As the number of trains grew, so did the ridership and revenue. He has given commuters across Northern California a convenient transportation alternative. Many train stations have benefitted from Gene's assistance. Such projects include the Richmond Intermodal Station, the Berkeley Station Platform Improvements, New Martinez Intermodal Depot and many more. In recent months, he has been intimately involved in the design of a new station in Sacramento.

Gene's efforts to improve the passenger rail business have not gone unnoticed. Since his arrival, Gene's leadership has led the CCJPA to a number of awards. These awards include, but are not limited to: the Regional Award—Project of the year in 2001, presented by Sacramento Area Council of Governments, SACOG, the Graham Clayton, Jr. Award for Distinguished Service to Passenger Transportation, the Partner of the Year, presented by Solano Transportation Authority, STA, and the 2007 President's Service and Safety Award, presented by Amtrak.

Madam Speaker, we are truly honored to pay tribute to our friend and dedicated public servant. We ask all of our colleagues to join with us in wishing Gene, his wife Joann, daughters June, Julie and Jeannette and grandchildren Nicholas and Samantha continued success and happiness in all of their future endeavors.

HONORING EDWARD R. ROYBAL METRO GOLD LINE EASTSIDE EXTENSION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the opening of the Edward R. Roybal Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension project into my 38th Congressional District.